

## Updates to Health Canada Soil Screening Values for Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Date: April 13, 2016

Currently there are no Canadian Guidelines for PFAS in soil. In the absence of a soil quality guideline, Health Canada has developed soil screening values (SSVs) for PFOS and PFOA, which can be used to determine whether the concentrations detected are likely to be of concern to human health. Screening values are developed at the request of a federal department, a province or territory in the event of spill, leak or other contamination event, and are based on readily available scientific studies. They are not subject to a review as thorough as the CCME Soil Quality Guidelines, which undergo internal peer review and public consultation before being approved by the CCME. Soil screening values are provided as guidance, and apply to soil which humans may be exposed.

PFAS name	PFAS acronym	Soil Screening Values (SSVs) (mg/kg)		
		Agricultural/ Residential Parkland Land Use	Commercial Land Use	Industrial (Commercial without toddler) Land Use
perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	0.85	1.28	12.1
perfluorooctane sulfonate	PFOS	2.1	3.2	30.5

### Notes:

- SSVs and supporting guidance may change without notice. Please check for published values and confirm these values are appropriate for use prior to use.
- In order to ensure the SSVs are protective of all contaminant media transfer pathways, the final SSV is set at the lowest value of the applicable SSVs calculated for each pathway considered as per the 2006 CCME Protocol for the Derivation of Soil Quality Guidelines.
- The SSV for the protection of potable groundwater could not be calculated due to insufficient data. Concerns about PFOS and PFOA in groundwater used as drinking water should be addressed on a site specific basis.
- The SSV check value for consumption of produce, meat and milk could not be calculated due to insufficient data. Concerns regarding consumption of foods and PFAS should be addressed on a site specific basis.
- Since PFOS and PFOA are essentially non-volatile, the inhalation of indoor air check was not calculated.